


Councilmember Vincent B. Orange, Sr.

A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To amend, on an emergency basis, An Act To provide books and educational supplies free of charge to pupils of the public schools of the District of Columbia to require the Board of Education to issue each public school student textbooks, workbooks, and adequate instructional materials, free of charge, for each core curriculum subject by the second week of each new semester, to require the Superintendent to certify to the Council within 30 days of the beginning of each new semester that each student has been issued textbooks, workbooks, and adequate instructional materials, free of charge, for each core curriculum subject, to require the Board of Education to review all books in use every 5 years and certify that the books meet accepted industry standards and advance the educational policies of the Board, to authorize the Board of Education to require a refundable textbook deposit in grades 7 through 12 to offset costs associated with lost or damaged textbooks and to provide a refund of the deposit at the conclusion of the school year, and to authorize the Board of Education to promulgate regulations to implement the provisions of this act.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,

That this act may be cited as the "Public Schools Free Textbook Emergency Amendment Act of 2001".

Sec. 2. Section 1 of An Act To provide books and educational supplies free of charge to pupils of the public schools of the District of Columbia is amended to read as follows:

"(a) The Board of Education of the District of Columbia shall issue each student of the public elementary schools, public junior high schools, and public senior high schools of the District of Columbia textbooks, workbooks, and adequate instructional materials for each core curriculum subject, free of charge, by the second week of each new semester. The Superintendent shall certify to the Council, within 30 days of each new semester, that each student has been issued textbooks, workbooks, and adequate instructional materials for each core curriculum subject, free of charge.

"(b) The Board of Education shall evaluate and certify every 5 years to the Council that all textbooks used in the public school system meet the Board of Education's goals and objectives and the curriculum framework established for the District of Columbia's public schools.

"(c) The Board of Education may require a refundable textbook deposit in grades 7 through 12 to offset costs associated with lost or damaged textbooks. The Board of Education shall provide for refund of any textbook deposit authorized pursuant to this subsection, at the conclusion of the relevant semester or school year for which the textbook was issued. The Board of Education shall adopt regulations to implement the provisions of this section.

"(d) The Public Schools Free Textbook Emergency Amendment Act of 2000 is subject to the availability of appropriated funds, or the Council's prescription requiring the Superintendent to comply with the law by making funds available within its FY 2001 budget."

Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

The fiscal impact statement for this bill is attached.

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Sec. 4. Effective date.

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This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of
veto by the Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto) and approval by the
Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority as provided in section
203(a) of the District of Columbia Financial Responsibility and Management
Assistance Act of 1995, approved April 17, 1995 (109 Stat. 116; D.C. Code § 47-
392.3(a)), and shall remain in effect for no longer than 90 days, as provided for
emergency acts of the Council of the District of Columbia in section 412(a) of the
District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 788;
D.C. Code § 1-229(a)).

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